

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDA FOR FAS/GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, GE

SUBJECT: U.S. FEED GRAIN COUNCIL VISIT TO GDR

SUMMARY: U.S. FEED GRAIN COUNCIL VISITED EAST BERLIN
OCTOBER 11. VISITORS WERE ASKED FIRMLY TO HELP THE
GDR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. FEED GRAIN COUNCIL (USFGC) DELEGATION
VISITED BERLIN AS PLANNED OCTOBER 11. GROUP CONSISTED
OF LYLE P. CAMPBELL, USFGC BOARD CHAIRMAN; JOHN W.
CURRY, USFGC DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER;
HAROLD D. SMEDLEY, USFGC VICE PRESIDENT; HALVOR
KOLSHUS, EUROPEAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, USFGC; AND
JOHN C. DECOURCY, USDA/FAS, GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER, GROUP
CALLED ON FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION NAHRUNG EXPORT-
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IMPORT WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED BY GRAIN AND FEED
DIRECTOR BERGEMANN. MISSION BRIEFED BERGEMANN AND
HIS ASSOCIATES ON U.S. SUPPLY SITUATION, STRESSING
THAT THERE ARE AMPLE SUPPLIES OF FEEDGRAINS AND
PRESENT MOMENT IS A FAVORABLE ONE FOR FOREIGN BUYERS
TO MAKE PURCHASES AND BUILD UP STOCKS. IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTIONS FROM BERGEMANN, MISSION MEMBERS GAVE

THEIR VIEWS ON EFFECTS OF U.S. LOAN AND SET-ASIDE PROGRAMS, WHICH THEY BELIEVED WOULD DAMPEN PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, BUT HAVE LESS EFFECT ON CORN/FEEDGRAIN PRODUCTION.

3. INTRODUCING WHAT HE SAID WAS A "VERY SERIOUS" QUESTION FOR THE GDR, BERGEMANN CALLED ON USFGC TO ASSIST GDR IN INCREASING EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID LARGE GDR PURCHASES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES OVER THE YEARS NEEDED TO BE BALANCED BY GDR EXPORTS. NAHRUNG WOULD LOOK TO USFGC TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GDR FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS ON VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES, AND TO DEVELOP USEFUL TRADE CONTACTS FOR THEM WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE USFGC. BERGEMANN SAID HE HOPED AT HIS NEXT MEETING WITH USFGC IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REVIEW CONCRETE STEPS UNDERTAKEN BY USFGC TO HELP THE GDR INCREASE ITS EXPORTS TO THE U.S. BERGEMANN MENTIONED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FROM TRANSPORTMASCHINEN, MACHINERY FROM MASCHINENEXPORT, AND SURVEYING AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FROM CARL-ZEISS JENA AS EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL GDR EXPORTS.

4. COMMENTING ON GDR 1977 CROP, BERGEMANN CALLED IT VERY GOOD. HE SAID NOT ONLY GRAIN, BUT OTHER FEED CROPS WERE GOOD. THE GDR HAS JUST HARVESTED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST OF THE CORN CROP, WHICH IS GROWN FOR SILAGE. IT IS "NO SECRET," HE SAID, THAT LAST YEAR WAS DIFFICULT. BUT LIVESTOCK NUMBERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO DROP AND ARE NOW AT FULL STRENGTH. BERGEMANN DECLINED TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT GRAIN PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIET UNION, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE USSR IS A STEADY SUPPLIER.

5. IN A MEETING AT THE EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR USFGC EFFORTS TO EXPAND TRADE WITH THE GDR. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION KOLSHUS SAID HE HAD VISITED FALL 1977 LEIPZIG FAIR AND THAT USFGC WAS CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN THE LEIPZIG FAIR JOINTLY WITH GREAT PLAINS WHEAT. KOLSHUS SAID THE FORM A USFGC/GREAT PLAINS WHEAT PRESENCE MIGHT TAKE WAS STILL UNDER STUDY.

6. COMMENT: BERGEMANN'S PITCH ON IMPORTING FROM THE GDR WAS A STRONG ONE; AND SUGGESTS THAT PRESSURE ON THE FOREIGN TRADE APPARATUS TO INCREASE HARD CURRENCY EARNINGS, ALREADY VERY GREAT, CONTINUES TO INCREASE. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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